

BRISTOL CITY COUNCIL

DOWNS COMMITTEE

23rd January 2017

Report of: Service Director, Neighbourhoods and Service Director,
Culture

Title: Downs Management and Events report

Ward: N/A

Officers Presenting Report: Melissa Inman, Arts and Events Manager
Sarah Tyler, Operations Co-ordinator
North Parks

Contact Telephone Number: 07736640955

RECOMMENDATION:

Members:

- **Event (see 3c):** Approve permission to be given for the 2017 Team Love proposed music concert at The Downs Sea walls location subject to a site fee and date being agreed, as recommended by the Events Sub Group (Appendix A).
- **Management Plan (see 4d):** Approve that the plan be circulated to the management plan sub group for comment before being sent to full Downs Committee in April for approval to then go to public consultation.

Summary

This report brings together information about the council's management of the Downs, including income generation updates.

1. Policy

Not applicable

2. Consultation

a) Internal

John Williams, Area Manager North.

Becky Belfin, Nature Conservation Officer

Sarah Tyler, Operations Coordinator North

Gemma Dando, Service Manager

3. Context

3a) Concessions:

Awaiting outcome of street trading application for Parrys Lane. If this is approved a tender specification will be put together for Downs Committee approval before the tender is advertised.

3b) Temporary car park:

Planning application for temporary car park was submitted and is still with planning to make a decision.

3c) Filming and Events

An Event Sub Group meeting was held to discuss the proposal for a music concert in 2017. See Appendix A .

Recommendation: Approve permission to be given for the 2017 Team Love proposed music concert at The Downs Sea walls location subject to a site fee and date being agreed, as recommended by the Events Sub Group.

The following fees and charges structure will be applicable to events taking place after 1st April 2017. Please note this is the proposed fees and charges structure for the city and is currently still in review.

Fee Type	Event size	Amount
Application Fee		
	Commercial	£120.00 + VAT
	Community	£60.00 (Inclusive of VAT and with 50% discount applied)
Commercial Site Hire Fee per day		
	Small	£1,400.00
	Medium	£4,500.00
	Large	By negotiation
	Major	By negotiation
Additional event day(s) (30% of basic hire fee)		
	Small	£420.00
	Medium	£1350.00
	Large	By negotiation
	Major	By negotiation
Set up/Clean up breakdown days (15% of basic hire fee)		
	Small	£210.00
	Medium	£675.00
	Large	By negotiation
	Major	By negotiation
Damage Deposits (Bond)		
	All Events will be	£500.00 or 20% whichever is greater

	assessed on an individual basis if a bond is required	
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Presently the following applications and expressions of interest have been made to use the Downs:

- Funderworld (in principle) March – April, 4 weeks operational.
- Foodies Festival 12th-14th May
- Ladyboys of Bangkok (in principle) 9th – 24th June
- Large scale Music concert, Team Love (in principle) 2nd September
- Student Union Fresher Fair (in principle) late September

Downs Management update

3d) Enjoyment:

Bristol City Council officers met with the Friends of the Downs and Avon Gorge on the 9th Jan and will be continuing to develop the current successful partnership with the group.

3e) Access:

To confirm permission has been given to the Bridge Trust for a compound on the Downs whilst they paint the suspension bridge, as agreed at the November committee meeting.

- The compound will be onsite for 6 months from March. Exact dates TBC.
- Any extension over this time will be charged at £200 per week.
- Fence is to be heras fence panels with green screening, this is a change to the cladded fence originally proposed. The heras fence option will reduce the size of the compound and is to be maintained in an 'as erected' pristine state.

3f) Movement and Place Framework subgroup

A sub group meeting is due to take place in February.

Movement and Place sub group members are: Lord Mayor, Councillor Peter Abraham, Councillor Martin Fodor, Anthony Brown, Francis Greenacre, Tim Ross, Richard Ennion, Richard Goldthorpe, Sarah Tyler, Mark Sperduty, Ed Plowden, Oliver Coltman, Mandy Leivers, Becky Belfin.

4. Landscape:

4a) Avon Gorge and Downs Wildlife Project education programme for November and December 2016; Mandy Leivers will provide a separate report.

4b) Tree safety works

In December there was a report of buses striking trees overhanging the bus lane on the Portway and a 3 man team spent a day pruning vegetation. The Downs team have severed ivy from the trees within falling distance of the depot and when the ivy has died off the trees will be inspected.

The Downs team highlighted a tree within the Goat enclosure with basal decay which may damage the fence if it falls and so the contractors will fell it. The tree officer continues inspections for dead or high risk trees and tree removals follow as required.

4c) Management and Resources: Downs Team Report

Daily duties continue on an ongoing basis; litter collection, football pitch provision and goat monitoring.

Other works through the Winter include:

- 1 new memorial bench has been installed and a further 2 benches planned to be installed.
- A damaged dog bin has been replaced.
- Leaf clearances continue to take place.
- Scrub management plan work continues to be carried out.
- Scrub clearance on Bridge Valley Road (road closure) will take place when the road closure is in place on Sunday 29th Jan, Sunday 5th Feb and 12th Feb.
- There is also plans for further tree clearance on the banks around the Observatory in Clifton also opening up more viewpoints through the woodland edge along the cliff tops next to the Promenade in Clifton.

4d) Management Plan

The first initial draft is currently being edited.

Recommendation: that the plan be circulated to the sub group for comment before being sent to full Downs Committee in April for approval to then go to public consultation.

Management plan sub group members are: Councillor Fodor, Councillor Alexander, Anthony Brown, Francis Greenacre, Mandy Leivers, Becky Belfin, Ben Skuse and Sarah Tyler.

4e) Health and Safety:

- On Sunday 29th Jan, Sunday 5th Feb and 12th Feb, Parsons Brinkerhoff will be carrying out their annual inspection of rock faces at Bridge Valley Road, the Zig Zag Footpath and the Downs Playground, this is during the same time that the road will be closed to clear vegetation in Bridge Valley Road.
- Contractors are aiming to replace the Black Rock Quarry Catch fence in Jan/February 2017.

5. Public Sector Equality Duties

5a) Before making a decision, section 149 Equality Act 2010 requires that each decision-maker considers the need to promote equality for persons with the following “protected characteristics”: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation.

Each decision-maker must, therefore, have due regard to the need to:

- i) Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Equality Act 2010.
- ii) Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it. This involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to --
 - remove or minimise disadvantage suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic;
 - take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of people who do not share it (in relation to disabled people, this includes, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities);
 - encourage persons who share a protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.
- iii) Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it. This involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to –
 - tackle prejudice; and
 - promote understanding.

6. Legal and Resource Implications

The Clifton and Durdham Downs (Bristol) Act 1861 provides that the Downs should remain as a place for the resort and recreation of the citizens of Bristol, and that a committee should be appointed to manage them. The recommendations of this report are within the powers conferred by this statute.

Financial

(a) Revenue (b) Capital

Financial advice provided by Mike Allen. Business Partner.

Council budget update will be provided as a separate paper.

7. Land

The land is under the control of the Downs Committee.

8. Personnel

Not applicable

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

Background Papers: None

Appendix A.

Downs Committee Events Sub Group Meeting 21st December 2016 at 2.00 pm

Present:

Lord Mayor Councillor Jeff Lovell
Councillor Peter Abraham
Councillor Barry Clark
Anthony Brown
Francis Greenacre

Also in attendance:

Becky Belfin
Norman Cornthwaite
Victoria Holden
Melissa Inman
Sarah Tyler
Tom Paine – Event Promoter

Apologies were received from:

Councillor Martin Fodor
Cullum McAlpine
Tim Ross
Ben Skuse

Proposed Music Event on The Downs in 2017

Tom Paine, Team Love outlined his organisation's application for a Music Event on the Downs in 2017 based on the paper they presented to the Downs Committee at the Meeting on 21st November 2016. His organisation is in negotiations with a number of bands to perform at the Event. It is planned to again sell 30,000 tickets with a target audience of 30 years old plus. There will be three stages – Main, DJ and Information (non-musical). All lessons learnt from the 2016 Event would be incorporated into the 2017 event.

Site

It was agreed that the most suitable site for the event is Sea Walls.

Noise

It was noted that should the Event go ahead in 2017, acoustic adjustments will be made to benefit the residents of Seawalls Road.

BCC had allowed a level of 70 dbs for the 2016 Event. Sound measurements are taken over a 5 or 15 minute period and are gauged by expensive and sophisticated equipment.

Licensing

Should the Downs Committee approve the application for the Event, a Licence will be required from the Licensing Authority, involving consultation with the local residents.

The Promoters of the Event will give preference to local traders and suppliers, although more capacity will be required than for the Event in 2016.

Environmental Considerations

These will be taken into account by the Promoters during the planning and execution of the Event.

Fee for the Event

It was noted that the Downs Committee would like to see an increase in the Fee it received for the 2016 Event. The Promoters suggested that a voluntary levy of £1 be added to each ticket sold which would be passed directly to the Downs Committee.

It was agreed that the Events Team negotiate a suitable Fee with the Promoters taking account of the comments from the Downs Committee.

Date

It was noted that the preferred date for the Promoters is 2nd September 2017. It was also noted that this impinges on the Football Pitches and the start of the Season, and that the Parks Staff would prefer a date in August – although not the Bank Holiday Weekend when the Downs are particularly busy. However a date in August impacts more heavily on other users of the Downs.

It was agreed that the date be negotiated with Promoters bearing in mind the preferred date of the Sub Group is 2nd September. The Sub Group also requested that the situation of two large Events on the Downs on successive weekends – as happened in September 2016 - be avoided.

Recommendation

The Sub Group recommended that the Downs Committee give its permission for a Music Event on the Downs in 2017 subject to the Fee and the date being agreed.